

# House News

Georgia House of Representatives

July 2005



## Miss Freedom

Most of us may never notice how beautifully lit the Gold Dome is, but the next time you are here at night, take a closer look. Gaze up into the sky, and you will see the face of an angel. Not exactly in the biblical sense, but you will see the face of a lady that has come to represent what so many Georgians hold so dear.

A mysterious statue, "Miss Freedom," adorns the top of the Georgia State Capitol. In one hand she holds a torch raised up, and in the other a sword at her side. The torch is said to be in remembrance of Georgians who died in battle, and the sword, representative of military protection of the state. I can not help but feel that there is something more to the face of this angel, the torch she holds up so high, and the sword she wields at the ready. The origin of "Miss Freedom" is not certain. One theory, perhaps the most probable, attributes the statue to a manufacturing corporation

in Salem, Ohio. In the late 1920s, a former secretary of the Supreme Court wrote to Mullins Manufacturing inquiring about the figure. James Andrews, head of statutory work in the factory, responded, saying that he remembered quite distinctly that they had furnished the particular statue in question. Upon reviewing his catalog and records, he found that Mullins had in fact furnished a figure of a woman holding aloft a torch in her right hand and sword in her left, representing the requested statue, 'Liberty.'

Another account claims that the sculpture originally stood atop the City Hall/Fulton County Courthouse and was removed because the building could not hold its weight. It was stored in the basement until one of the Capitol Commissioners examined it and asked that it be used on the Capitol. A similar story has been reported, although in this account, the statue was damaged in a storm and was under repair when the Commissioner asked for it. However, photographs and illustrations of the old City Hall from that period do not show the figure.

In yet a third theory, the most picturesque, the state of Ohio gave Georgia the statue as a gift in atonement for the destruction caused there by Civil War General William T. Sherman, an Ohio native. Another version of the Ohio connection claims that the sculpture was originally intended for the Ohio Capitol, but Ohio ran out of funds and forfeited the statue.

The figurine's name is yet another mystifying focus. State researchers have long sought to find out if she was ever given an official name. A statue was part of the building's design from the outset. The architect's drawings show a vague female outline with an arm

*Miss Freedom continued on page 5*

BIRTHDAYS	PAGE 2
FROM JAY	PAGE 2
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT	PAGE 3
GUESS WHO	PAGE 3
DID YOU KNOW	PAGE 4
WORDS OF WISDOM A FRESH FACE	PAGE 5
EDUCATE YOURSELF	PAGE 6



### Newsletter Contacts:

Gina McKinney -  
404.656.5020  
Brent Cranfield -  
404.656.0305

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

JULY



Talmadge James	July 3
Beth Green	July 5
Lorenzo Mosley	July 11
Scott Blount	July 14
Julie Jordan	July 14
Kay Hodges	July 20
Kelly Moody	July 26
Dianne Hardin	July 29
Margie Coggins	July 30

It's so sad to grow old along. My wife hasn't had a birthday in 4 years. She was born in the year of our Lord-only-knows.

- ANONYMOUS

## From the Chief-of-Staff

### Keeping Safety in Mind

Due to the small scare we had last week in the Coverdell Office Building, I have asked Captain Wilson of the Georgia State Patrol to give our entire staff some guidance on the proper evacuation protocol for the General Assembly.

In the coming weeks, we will designate coordinators for each floor of COB and the Capitol to ensure proper evacuation. Captain Wilson will also conduct training on proper evacuation very soon.

I ask your full cooperation in this effort to ensure that we have a safe work environment. Thank you in advance.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Hall", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.



# Employee Spotlight!

EVA FARRILL

Banks & Banking and Economic Development  
Committees Secretary

In just two months from today, one of our most experienced secretaries will be celebrating her 14th year with the House. For many of us, that would mean that we were well on our way to thinking about our retirement, but for Eva Farrill, this is life after retirement. An executive assistant with the Ford Motor Company for 27 years, it took only two weeks for Eva to see that she did not like staying at home and chose the Georgia House of Representatives as her second career and home.

I don't know about anyone else, but when I think about my retirement there's a golf course under my feet and the sound of a rolling tide in my head, but if you know Eva Farrill, that just wouldn't be enough. An avid car racing fan, Eva just can't seem to take her foot off of the pedal. She began as a secretary in Room 507 of the Legislative Office Building, and was eventually asked by Rep. Jeanette Jamieson, then Chairman of the House Education Committee, to be her committee secretary. Now she serves under two committee chairmen, Rep. James Mills and

Rep. Ron Stephens, and she shows no signs of slowing down now.

When asked what her favorite time with the House was, she stated "I've enjoyed every single session, I take it day by day, and I have no plans to leave any time soon." She said that here in the House, "I've found a place to work, enjoy each day, in a place where the people who work here, spend their time doing what they think is right. Everyone means well."

In a time where most people seem to be going through the motions, trying to get from paycheck to paycheck, it's a warming feeling to know that the people who work on our staff are here by choice. They're here because they want to be here, and do the very best job they can for the citizens of Georgia. Now that's what government should be, and Eva Farrill exemplifies that each and every day she walks into and out of this capitol.

- Brent Cranfield



CAN YOU  
GUESS  
WHO  
THIS IS?

The back page will tell you who it is!



# Did You Know...



## NORCROSS TEAM WINS TWO TOURNAMENTS

The Norcross 11 and under travel baseball team capped off a 24-13 season by winning the Baseball Player's Association Florida Invitational Tournament in Destin, FL during June 24-26, 2005. They also won the Sawnee Mountain Shootout Tournament in Cumming, GA over Memorial Day Weekend. The young Blue Devils made

it to the final championship round of the 19-team Greater Gwinnett Baseball League earlier in June and were ranked in the top 10 teams for their age group in Georgia by USA Sports Rankings.

Chris Raasch, son of Christel Raash, is pictured first row second from the left

Hard work spotlights the character of people: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don't turn up at all.

-Sam Ewing

## The House Staff On-line Directory

Just in case you haven't checked out the House web site lately, we've added a staff page under the House Communications section. We all know how wonderful we (the House staff) are, now it's time to let the public know. Yup, we're creating something of a "White/Picture Book" of the House staff!

Our goal is to feature the House staff members by adding a headshot and a short biographical

sketch (name, occupation, hobbies, etc.) on the staff page. Along with the attachment of this newsletter, is a questionnaire. Please print it, fill it out, and call or email Luisa Angel in House Communications with the date and time that you would like to take your picture. The dates will be July 21-26 from 9-12 and 1-4 in the North staircase of the Capitol (where Oglethorpe's statue is). Please bring the questionnaire with you to your picture appointment.

Because we want you to look your best, please wear clothes that compliment your skin tone!

See you soon!

# Words of Wisdom...

Betty Swaim

House Administrative Assistant

For 34 years, Betty has lived by the motto "They name it, and I do it." Beginning her career with the State of Georgia as a part of the Board of Regents, Betty worked for the Georgia Higher Education Commission & State Scholarship Commission after attending two quarters of college at Georgia State. Two years later, she moved to the Health Department, but took some time off after getting married. She returned to the state with a part-time job with the Clerk's Office, and was there for nearly eight years. Her first fulltime job with the House came when the Legislature created the Joint Tax Reform Committee. With four years of experience on tax issues, she was soon named as Committee Secretary for the House Ways & Means Committee. Later, she moved once again to work for the Cobb County Delegation in the LOB.

If anyone on our staff symbolizes 'flexibility,' it's Betty. In a time when everyone seems to be territorial about job descriptions, just remember what Betty believes, "They name it, and I do it."

- Brent Cranfield

# A Fresh Face...

Jenee' Burke

House Communications

A self-proclaimed 'Army Brat,' Jenee' was born in Fairbanks, Alaska, and spent the early years of her life traveling all across this and many other countries with her family. After spending four years in Germany, her father, a Master Sgt. in the U.S. Army, moved the family back to his home of Millen, Georgia upon his retirement from the military. Jenee' went on to graduate from Georgia Southern University in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in Political Science. With a summer internship, she ventured to Washington, D.C. to work for former Georgia Congressman Bob Barr. After her graduation, she became a legal clerk for an attorney in Statesboro, but soon left to move to Metro Atlanta. Prior to joining the House Communications Office, Jenee' worked as a mortgage broker and loan officer. Even though she loved her experience in the private sector, Jenee' felt that she had much more to give back to her community and state, so she moved back into the political and governmental arena. And I can definitely vouch that we are all much better off that she has.

- Brent Cranfield

## Miss Freedom - continued...

outstretched, and the building specifications sent out in 1884 mention "the statue of Freedom." In recent decades, she has been unofficially designated "Miss Freedom." The sales manager at the Mullins Corporation mentioned in his letter that the statue requested was "Liberty." There is another suggestion that her name is "Goddess of Liberty."

After learning the all of the possible origins of "Miss Freedom," I am still left with the feeling that she means more to this state than any of us or the originally architects could have ever imagined. I have come to believe that the torch, standing so tall in the 'Heart of the South' is to remind us all that we must lead the way. We must lead in the way in social justice. We must lead the way for what is right for this state and the nation. And we must lead the way to making sure that Georgia continues to shine all across this nation. I believe that her sword is not just about military protection. It's about reminding Georgians that we must all fight for what we believe in. We must fight for what is right for all people. It does us no good to be shown the way, to be guided by the light, if we do not have the courage to take the first step, and face the unknown.

She views this state, not by looking in, but by looking out. Looking out over the horizon, to the next challenge, guiding us to what is to come, and she sees how what happens under her perch affects the lives of all Georgians. We should always keep this in mind. That what we do in this building, affects us all. We should be looking outward as well. Prepared for the challenges ahead and ready to act when our time is called.

- Brent Cranfield



## Don't forget!

Computer training will be held the week of October 3rd-7th. These training classes will be very beneficial to us all. We will be learning Microsoft software such as Word, and Access.

# Educate yourself!

## Kid's Rule!

We now have a special place on our website for our Georgia Kids! Although it is in the beginning phase, we have really big plans for this part of the website. There are fun facts, trivia, information on the state symbols, and How a Bill Becomes Law features the newly elected State Amphibian - the Green Tree Frog!

This site will also feature all the past Speakers, County Information, History of the Capitol, and will have links to Bills that have passed that affect the Kids!

All eighth grade students learn about State Government so we hope that our website will be both beneficial and fun for them!

There will also be a section for Teachers and even our Senior Citizens!

To get to the student webpages, roll over the public button on the navigation bar then click on the elementary, middle, and high school buttons. Check out the State Symbols page to get good recipes that include our state foods!

We hope you will enjoy our new additions and that the Kids in your representative's districts will be able to use these pages to help with their studies and have a good time.

Please contact Gina if you have any suggestions as we continue to add to these pages.

Georgia State Capitol  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

404.656.5020  
404.656.5644  
gmckinne@legis.state.ga.us  
bcranfield@legis.state.ga.us

The Cute Little Girl  
with the Curl is none  
other than

**Rebecca  
Hammock!**



● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●  
**We're on the Web!**

[www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2005\\_06/house/index.htm](http://www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2005_06/house/index.htm)

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●